

Message Text

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SUBJECT: TEXTS OF STATEMENTS ISSUED BY THE PROGRESSIVE ALLIANCE
OF LIBERIA AND BY THE GOL MINISTRY OF INFORMATION
CONCERNING THE PROGRESSIVE ALLIANCE OF LIBERIA

REF: MONROVIA 0155

1. THERE FOLLOWS THE VERBATIM TEXT OF A PRESS RELEASE
ISSUED JANUARY 5 BY THE GOL MINISTRY OF INFORMATION CON-
CERNING THE VISIT TO LIBERIA OF A DELEGATION FROM THE
PROGRESSIVE ALLIANCE OF LIBERIA (PAL):

"PRESIDENT TOLBERT HAS MET WITH A THREE-MAN DELEGATION
FROM THE UNITED STATES-BASED PROGRESSIVE ALLIANCE OF
LIBERIA (PAL), AT THE EXECUTIVE MANSION.

"THE DELEGATION WHICH HAS EXPRESSED INTEREST IN ESTABLISH-
ING ANOTHER POLITICAL PARTY IN LIBERIA, WAS HEADED BY ITS
CHAIRMAN, MR. GABRIEL BACCHUS MATTHEWS.

"DURING THE MEETING WITH THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE, WHO IS
STANDARD BEARER OF THE TRUE WHIG PARTY (TWP), PRESIDENT
TOLBERT TOLD THE PAL DELEGATION THAT HE AND HIS PARTY WILL
WELCOME THE EXISTENCE OF ANOTHER POLITICAL PARTY AS
LONG AS IT MET THE NECESSARY LEGAL REQUIREMENTS.

"WHEN THE ALLIANCE EARLIER COMMUNICATED WITH PRESIDENT
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TOLBERT ITS INTENTION TO COME TO LIBERIA AND MEET WITH HIM,
HE OFFERED THEM THREE ROUND-TRIP TICKETS TO FACILITATE
THEIR TRAVEL.

"UPON THEIR ARRIVAL IN LIBERIA, DR. TOLBERT PROVIDED
TRANSPORTATION FOR THE PAL DELEGATION TO ENABLE THEM TO
TRAVEL THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY AND GET IN TOUCH WITH ALL
THE PEOPLE THEY WANT TO MEET.

"AT A PRESS CONFERENCE TODAY AT THE DUCOR HOTEL IN MONROVIA, THE ALLIANCE PRAISED THE PACE OF DEVELOPMENT IN LIBERIA, BUT CONTENTED THAT THE PACE OF CHANGE WAS NOT FAST ENOUGH FOR THEM.

"THEY WENT ON TO OBSERVE THAT THEIR GROUP SHARES SIMILAR VIEWS WITH THE TRUE WHIG PARTY ON VARIOUS ASPECTS OF NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT. MR. MATTHEWS ADDED THAT EVEN THOUGH THEY MIGHT DISAGREE WITH THE TWP ON CERTAIN ISSUES, THEY ARE NOT ANTAGONISTS OF THE PARTY."

2. THERE FOLLOWS THE VERBATIM TEXT OF A STATMENT ISSUED IN MONROVIA JANUARY 5 BY PAL:

"A DELEGATION CONSISTING OF GABRIEL BACCHUS MATTHEWS, OSCAR JARYEE QUIAH, AND SAMUEL P. JACKSON, OF THE PROGRESSIVE ALLIANCE OF LIBERIA (PAL) HAS HELD TWO MEETINGS WITH PRESIDENT WILLIAM R. TOLBERT, STANDARD BEARER OF THE TRUE WHIG PARTY, IN CONNECTION WITH PAL'S EFFORTS TO ESTABLISH ANOTHER POLITICAL PARTY IN LIBERIA.

"FOR THE PRESIDENT'S INFORMATION, THE DELEGATION OUTLINED THE NATURE, GOALS AND METHODS OF THE PARTY PAL IS ORGANIZING. THE PRESIDENT SAID THAT HE AND HIS PARTY WILL WELCOME THE EXISTENCE OF ANOTHER PARTY THROUGH AN OPERATION OF LAW, BY POLICY, AND IN PRINCIPLE.

"THE DISCUSSIONS COVERED THE UNIQUE CIRCUMSTANCES OF LIBERIA AS WELL AS THE SPECIAL INTERESTS AND CONCERN OF UNCLASSIFIED

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THE TRUE WHIG PARTY AND THE PROGRESSIVE ALLIANCE OF LIBERIA.

"PAL BELIEVES THAT THE MANY OBSERVATIONS MADE AND THE CONCLUSIONS REACHED ARE SUFFICIENT TO CONSTITUTE A GENTLEMAN'S AGREEMENT."

CARTER

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